



Sound OFF

# Vehicle theft is the costliest property crime in the U.S., costing consumers more than \$6.4 billion annually.





Vehicle theft is also a "gateway" crime that can lead to kidnapping, identity theft, title and insurance fraud, drug smuggling terrorism, and even murder.

Watch Your Car Did You Know?

The ABTPA

Grants and Accomplishments

**Auto Crime Basics** 

Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention

Public Awareness and Education

Looking Forward



In 2009, thieves made off with 76,617 vehicles valued at \$764,561,043. Only California leads

Texas in the number of vehicles stolen annu-

Watch Your Car

Did You Know? The ABTPA

Grants and

Accomplishments

Auto Crime Basics

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Since 1991, over 1.9 million vehicles were stolen in Texas. Today, we average a vehicle theft every 6 minutes

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Every 2 ½ minutes in Texas, a vehicle is broken into and the contents stolen. In 2009 there were 272,791 burglaries of motor vehicle including vehicle parts and accessories, valued at \$220,315,208.

Watch Your Car

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# 

#### Mission

- **★** Fund programs to reduce auto theft in Texas
- ★ Develop a statewide network of law enforcement, local prosecutors, and insurance representative to combat auto theft through grants, reduction initiatives, and public education
- **★** Establish partnerships with Mexico to reduce the number of stolen vehicles crossing the border
- **★** To fund a statewide vehicle registration program
- **★** To develop communication and working partnerships with officials in bordering Mexico states



### History

- ★ The Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) was established by the 72nd Texas Legislature to create a statewide effort to reduce auto theft.
- ★ The 80th Legislature amended the ATPA mission to include emphasis on vehicle burglary in addition to theft. The resulting agency, known as the Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), is charged with assessing the vehicle burglary, vehicle theft, and economic vehicle theft problems in Texas.
- ★ In 2009, the 81st Legislature placed the Automobile Burglary & Theft Prevention Authority is the newly created Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) which became effective November 1, 2009.



### **Board of Directors**

- \* Chief Carlos Garcia, Chairman, Law Enforcement Rep., Brownsville
- ★ Major Jesse Flores, DPS, Austin
   Representing ex-officio Director Steven C. McCraw
- **★** Ms. Linda Kinney, Consumer Rep., Dripping Springs
- **★** Mr. Ken Ross, Insurance Rep., Houston
- ★ Mr. Richard Watson, Insurance Rep., Austin
- \* Sergeant Mark H. Wilson, Law Enforcement Rep., Fort Worth
- ★ Ms. Margaret "Jerry" Wright, Consumer Rep., El Paso

#### Committees

BORDER SOLUTIONS INSURANCE FRAUD **GRANTEE ADVISORY** 



#### **ABTPA Staff**

- **★** To serve as the "Authority" on the business of auto theft.
- **★** To administer the program to our "End Users" (i.e. Task Forces, Non-Profits, Etc.).
- **★** To coordinate relationships with all outside entities to combat auto theft.
- **★** To disseminate information to public entities concerning auto theft trends & prevention techniques.



#### **ABTPA Task Forces**

- **★** Carry out the mission of the Authority.
- ★ Be the extension of ABTPA. Say the same message. Use more "WE" instead of "US".
- ★ Develop a relationship with the different legislative contacts in the coverage area.
- **★** Distribute ABTPA information to interest parties of the Legislative branch.



#### **ABTPA Task Forces**

- ★ Task Forces are to assist the staff in obtaining information and recording activity information for submission to public and other entities as requested.
- **★** Task Forces should be aware of public awareness events in their area.
- ★ Become more media friendly, "get the message out".



#### **ABTPA Partners**

★ Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

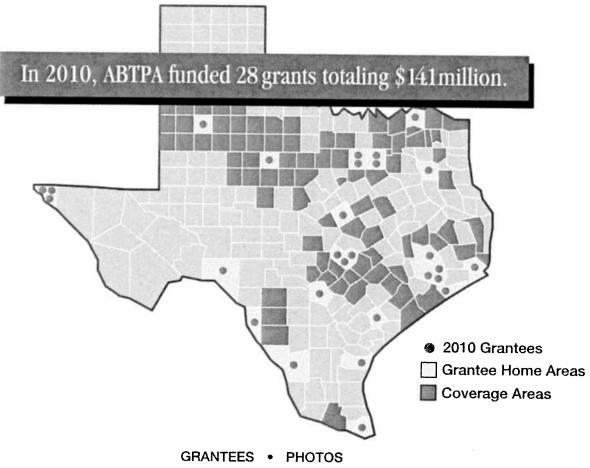
Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) Motor Carrier Division (MCD) Vehicle Titles and Registration (VTR)

New & Used Car Dealers
Tax Assessor Collectors Office
International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI)
Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators (TAVTI)
Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Department of Insurance
Border Security Council
National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)

Texas Attorney General's Office
Insurance Industry
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Texas Crime Prevention Association
Texas Police Chief's and Sheriff's Associations
International Association of Chief's of Police
Auto Theft Prevention Authorities:
Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Maryland,
Colorado, New York, Louisiana and Arizona



#### **GRANTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



Law Enforcement • Border Enforcement • Public Awareness • Insurance Fraud

#### **GRANTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### Law Enforcement, Detection, and Apprehension

- ★Grantees in this category conduct pro-active patrols to search for and recover stolen vehicles, participate with narcotics agencies to recover stolen vehicles and property, and known repeat offenders involved in auto theft, burglary, or fraud.
  - **★**City of Austin
  - **★**City of Beaumont
  - **★**Coryell County
  - **★**City of Corpus Christi
  - **★**City of Dallas
  - **★**Dallas County
  - **★**Galveston County
  - **★**Harris County
  - **★**City of Houston
  - **★**Jones County

- **★Lubbock County**
- **★**Montgomery County
- **★**City of Paris
- **★**City of Pasadena
- **★**City of San Antonio
- **★**Smith County
- **★**Tarrant County
- **★**Travis County
- **★**City of Victoria

**GRANTEES • PHOTOS** 

Law Enforcement • Border Enforcement • Public Awareness • Insurance Fraud



#### **GRANTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Border Enforcement**

- ★In addition to the general mission, these grantees are an instrumental part of Homeland Security to protect our borders and to prevent stolen vehicles from crossing the border from an inbound and outbound perspective.
  - **★**City of Brownsville
  - **★**Texas Department of Public Safety (BATIC)
  - **★**City of Laredo
  - **★**City of Eagle Pass
  - **★**City of Del Rio
  - **★**City of El Paso

GRANTEES • PHOTOS

Law Enforcement • Border Enforcement • Public Awareness • Insurance Fraud



#### **GRANTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Public Awareness and Crime Prevention**

★Collateral function of this grantee is to educate task forces and citizens about auto theft and burglary prevention efforts in their locality by law enforcement agencies as well as to provide tips to citizens on how not to become victims of auto theft and burglary.

**★**University of North Texas





GRANTEES • PHOTOS

Law Enforcement • Border Enforcement • Public Awareness • Insurance Fraud

# TIAS ADO BURGLARY S. THET PREVENDO AUTHORITY

#### **GRANTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

## Statewide Training, Enforcement, & Detection

- ★Grantees in this category provide training, sharing of information for stolen vehicles, and locate and issue warrants for known repeat offenders involved in auto theft, burglary, or fraud.
  - **★**Texas Department of Public Safety (BATIC)
  - **★**Texas Department of Public Safety (Training)



GRANTEES • PHOTOS

Law Enforcement • Border Enforcement • Public Awareness • Insurance Fraud

# 

#### **GRANTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

## Anti-Theft Devices and Registration

★Grantees in this grouping primarily conduct document investigations to identify, apprehend and prosecute those who sell fraudulent documents to register or renew vehicle registration. They may also collect statistical data for other agencies for reporting and or educational purposes.

★El Paso County Tax Assessor

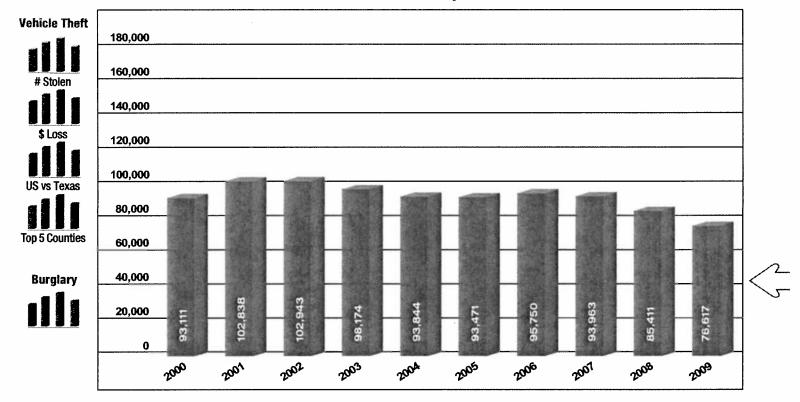


GRANTEES • PHOTOS

Law Enforcement • Border Enforcement • Public Awareness • Insurance Fraud

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

### Texas Vehicle Thefts 2000-2009



Stats • International Issues • Demographics • Larceny Theft • Insurance Fraud • Equipment Theft • Carjacking • 2009 Gateway Crimes

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

#### **International Issues**

★The value of the vehicles is believed to be one billion dollars.

#### **Export**

- ★An estimated 200,000 vehicles are illegally exported out of the country every year, either in shipping containers at ports or driven across the border.
- ★Only 1% of exported stolen vehicles are returned to the U.S.
- **★**The exportation of stolen vehicles is often linked to organized crime cartels.

#### **Borders/Ports**

- ★Cities and towns near borders or ports have higher rates of theft.
- ★NICB reports that two-thirds of the top 25 metropolitan areas with the highest theft rates in the U.S. have direct ties to international ports or nearby borders.

#### **Trafficking**

- **★**Trafficking of stolen vehicles is an international problem and cooperation from other countries is essential.
- **★**The stolen vehicles are used for trafficking people and drugs across the U.S. border.

# TEXAS AUTO DERCLARY REPERFORMANDER Y

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

Thieves Come in Two Types... and Steal Both Older and Newer Vehicles

#### Amateur/Opportunist:

Motivation: Stolen vehicle serves temporary purpose.

• Generally 19 or younger. • Steals with a group.

#### **Professional:**

Motivation: Stolen vehicle serves long-term purpose.

• Generally older than 19 & Steals alone or uses others.

According to the FBI, More Thefts are Committed by Amateurs than Professionals.



**Amateur Practices** 

**Professional Practices** 

**Working Together** 

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

# **Amateur/Opportunist Practices**

- ★ Steals vehicle for transportation.
- **★**Steals vehicle for joyride.
- ★ Steals vehicle for drug money.
- ★ Steals vehicle to commit another crime.
- ★ Steals vehicle to pass a gang initiation.
- ★ Steals vehicle for street racing modifications (amateur or pro).
- \* Steals vehicle for access to personal information (identity theft).
- ★ Steals vehicle to commit fraud.



**Amateur Practices** 

**Professional Practices** 

**Working Together** 

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

# **Professional Practices**

- ★ Steals vehicle and strips parts for resale (Chop Shop).
  - Disguises the theft: parts aren't as recognizable as a vehicle.
  - Parts are worth 2 to 3 times the value of the vehicle.
  - Easier to find buyers for parts than entire automobile.
- ★ Steals vehicle to sell or export.



**Amateur Practices** 

**Professional Practices** 

**Working Together** 

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

# How Do These Two Types Work Together?

- ★ Opportunist (steals the vehicle) + Professional (pays the juvenile).
- ★ Opportunist (minor punishment) + Professional (avoids jail/fine).
- ★ Opportunist (gets thrill, cash) + Professional (avoids jail/fine).



**Amateur Practices** 

**Professional Practices** 

**Working Together** 

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

Larceny-Theft

In Texas-2008

193,678 larceny theft offenses amounted to \$144,024,902. 62,027 vehicle part theft offenses amounted to \$40,533,766.

Nationally-2008

1,713,107 larceny theft offenses amounted to \$1,240,289,454. 645,710 vehicle part theft offenses amounted to \$343,517,483.



What items are stolen?

# TEAS AUD DURCHRY & THET PREVENDED AUTHORITY

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

# Larceny-Theft, What is Stolen?

- ★ Most common items burglarized inside vehicles are CDs, cell phones, purses/briefcases, small electronics, clothing, shopping packages, and video/DVD units (\$400-\$2500).
- ★ Most common equipment burglarized off vehicles are wheels/hubcaps, stereos, headrests, tailgates, lights, lens covers, mirrors, sunroofs, catalytic converters.
- ★Approx. 75,000 airbags are stolen annually in the U.S. amounting to over \$50 million. Airbags sell for up to \$300 on black market.
- ★Also stolen are ECMs (Electronic Control Modules). ECMs are small, easy to steal, and valuable-ranging from \$300-\$1,200 retail.



- ★ Third row SUV and minivan seats are becoming popular targets.
- ★ Many auto thefts begin as larceny-theft with a thief who decides they can successfully steal the vehicle once they've gained entry.

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

#### **Insurance Fraud**

An estimated 20 percent of all vehicle thefts involve insurance fraud.

#### **Possible Fraud Indicators:**

- Victim does not have keys for stolen vehicle.
- Stolen vehicle is recovered with ignition intact.
- Stolen vehicle is recovered burned.
- Stolen vehicle is lease vehicle over mileage.
- Insured is behind on payments of stolen vehicle.
- Stolen vehicle is known to be in need of extensive repairs.



#### **Common Associated Schemes**

•Owner Give-up •30-Day Special •Export Fraud •Phantom Vehicle •"Crack for Cars" •Vehicle Cloning



#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

### Fraud Investigations

- ★30% of all missing vehicle claims are fraudulent and account for ten cents of every premium dollar consumers pay for insurance.
- ★In 2009, motor vehicle insurance fraud decreased eight percent. Fraudulent and inflated claims associated with vehicle accidents along with the number of false stolen auto reports contributed to the number of incidents.
- ★22% of insurance referrals reported to the Texas Department of Insurance Fraud Unit deal with motor vehicle insurance



#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

# Fraud Investigations

FY 2009 Auto Insurance Fraud	Statistics
Insurance Fraud Cases	222
Insurance Fraud Arrests	19
<b>Insurance Fraud Cases Filed</b>	76
Source: ABTPA FY 2009 End of Year Reports	

## **★**ABTPA Task Force Statistics ★ Statewide Insurance Fraud Statistics

FY 2009 Insurance Fraud Statistics	
Fraud Reports Received	11,021
Cases Opened for Investigation	637
Calls Received via Insurance Fraud Ho	
Cases Referred for Prosecution	206
Indictments Resulting from Investigation	ons 148
Convictions from Cases Referred	125
Subpoenas Issued	439
Open Records Requests Processed	145
Amount Identified in Referred Cases	\$18,079,013
Restitution Assessed by Courts	\$7,449,147

Source: TDI FY 2009 Fraud Unit Annual Report



#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

## **Equipment Theft**

- ★4,858 equipment theft reports were submitted to NER in 2006
- **★**The monetary loss associated with equipment theft ranges from \$300 million to \$1 billion annually in the U.S.
- ★In 2006, Texas ranked No. 1 in the nation for equipment theft
- ★The most commonly stolen equipment in 2006 was:
  1.Skid steer loader-31%; 2. Tractor-18%; 3. Backhoe-14%
  Remaining 37%-generators, compressors, excavators, dozers, trenchers, forklifts and rollers
- ★The most common makes of equipment stolen in 2006 was: 1. John Deere; 2. Caterpiller; 3. Bobcat; 4. Kubota; 5. Case
- **★**The recovery rate for equipment is 6.5%.

Low recovery is due to:

#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

# Low recovery is due to:

- Delay in discoveries.
- No mandated registration system for off-road equipments.
- Inaccurate/non-existent owner records.
- Lack of pre-purchase checks.
- Limited resources and information, as well as information available to law inforcement.
- Complexities in equipment numbering.



#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**

## Carjacking

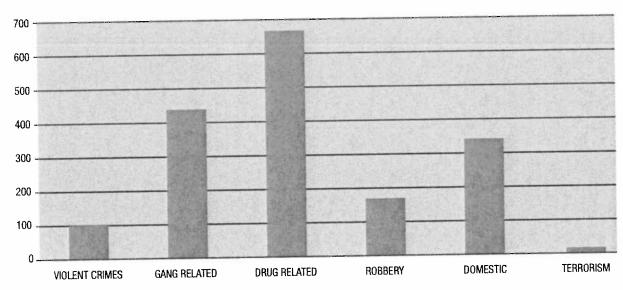
- \*Approximately 38,000 carjackings occured annually between 1993 and 2002.
- ★Carjackings happen most often in areas such as intersections (44%) or parking lots(24%).
- ★Males committed 93% of carjackings & victims identified 56% of offenders as black, & 21% white.
- ★Approximately 75% of all carjackings involve the brandishing of a weapon, and many involved gangs.
- **★**The victim resisted the offender in two-thirds of all carjackings.
- ★Approximately 32% of carjacking victims are injured.



#### **AUTO CRIME BASICS**



# 2009 Gateway Crimes



#### **AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION**

### How to protect our vehicles

Layer #1 Common Sense.

- **★**Lock your doors.
- **★**Take your keys.
- **★**Park in well-lit areas.
- ★ Keep valuables out of sight.
- **★**Keep windows closed at all times.
- ★Be aware of your surroundings to avoid carjackers.



Common Sense • Warning & Barrier Devices • Immobilizing Devices • Law Enforcement Initiatives

**VEHICLE RECOVERY DEVICES** 

### **AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION**

How to protect our vehicles

Layer #2 Warning and Barrier Devices (i.e., alarms & The Club).

★A protective device that can be seen or heard from outside the vehicle to deter the thief from violating the vehicle. In addition, the device may need to be defeated in order to take the vehicle.



Common Sense • Warning & Barrier Devices • Immobilizing Devices • Law Enforcement Initiatives

VEHICLE RECOVERY DEVICES

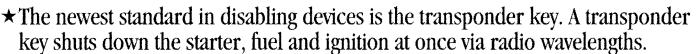
#### **AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION**

### How to protect our vehicles

Layer #3 Immobilizing Devices

- ★A disabling device that inhibits the flow of electricity or fuel and renders vital vehicle functions inoperable until the device is properly activated. This prevents thieves from "hot-wiring" the vehicle. The common name is "Kill Switch"-the heart of effective alarm systems, beyond the noisemaker.
- ★A "kill switch" may be spliced into vehicle wiring to inhibit the flow of electricity or fuel and may be active or passive. Until the device is turned from the "off" position to the "on" position, the vehicle can not be started. Disabling device types:

Toggle switches • Magnets • Secondary key inserts • Pressure pads Combination keypads • Computer chips • Relay switches



Common Sense • Warning & Barrier Devices • Immobilizing Devices • Law Enforcement Initiatives

VEHICLE RECOVERY DEVICES



### **AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION**

### How to protect our vehicles

Layer #4 Law Enforcement Initiatives.

- ★A BAIT CAR is a vehicle typically outfitted with a remote engine shut-off device, video, and tracking system. The vehicle is monitored by the police and is used to tempt a car thief into stealing it.
- ★LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION READERS consist of special cameras and software installed in police vehicles that can quickly scan license plates, compare to a database that lists "vehicles of interest", and "recognize" those that are stolen.

Scanned plates can be compared to listings of "vehicles of interest" associated with any license plate-oriented law enforcement database.

Common Sense • Warning & Barrier Devices • Immobilizing Devices • Law Enforcement Initiatives

VEHICLE RECOVERY DEVICES

#### **AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION**

### Vehicle Tracking and Recovering Systems

- ★A transmitter system installed in a vehicle that silently emits a signal to police or security stations when a vehicle is reported stolen. Signals are transmitted and received via Global Positioning Satellite GPS systems and/or cellular phone towers.
- **★**Depending on the system, authorities trace the signal using a compass-type device or a digitized computer map. Popular brands include:

LoJack • OnGuard (ATX) • Teletrac • OnStar



Problems: underground, metal building, concrete building and antenna manipulation

LAYERED APPROACH TO PROTECTION

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

### Importance of Auto Theft Prevention and Education

- **★**A vehicle is stolen every six minutes in Texas.
- ★A vehicle is burglarized every 21/2 minutes in Texas.
- ★Vehicle theft is considered a "gateway crime".
- ★Everyone pays higher insurance premiums because of vehicle theft and burglary.
- ★Vehicle owners must understand the magnitude of the problem and know steps they can take to protect themselves.



VIN ETCHING . HEAT . KHOU-TV NEWSCLIP . TRADEMARK

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

PRINT
TELEVISION
RADIO
Video News Release



WHERE YOU ARE, THEY ARE . WATCH YOUR CAR . YOU HOLD THE KEY



#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

# Watch Your Car.

RADIO

The "Watch Your Car" public awareness campaign is a statewide, multi-media campaign consisting of television and radio public service announcements, billboards, brochures, promotional giveaways, posters, static displays, mobile vehicle displays, annual reports, and a statewide auto theft awareness hotline: 800-CAR-WATCH, through which callers may obtain theft prevention information packets, information on the Texas H.E.A.T. program, statistics, and a variety of other information.



WHERE YOU ARE, THEY ARE . WATCH YOUR CAR . YOU HOLD THE KEY

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

Last year, car thieves stole nearly 100,000 vehicles in Texas. More than half of those crimes were committed by thieves who had accomplices—vehicle owners. Estimates show that 50 percent of stolen vehicles in Texas had the owners' keys left in them.





WHERE YOU ARE, THEY ARE . WATCH YOUR CAR . YOU HOLD THE KEY

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

Message: YOU HOLD THE KEY.

- ★ If you leave your keys in the car...
- ★ If you leave your vehicle running with no adult occupat
- ★ If a thief steals your car and leads police on a high speed chase...
- ★ If a thief wrecks your vehicle...

You could be the one who pays.
Always remember: YOU HOLD THE KEY



#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

PRINT TELEVISION RADIO





WHERE YOU ARE, THEY ARE . WATCH YOUR CAR . YOU HOLD THE KEY

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

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VIN ETCHING . HEAT . KHOU-TV NEWSCLIP . TRADEMARK

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

### Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching

- ★VIN etching is a chemical process in which a vehicle's 17-digit identification number is permanently stenciled onto the window glass.
- ★VIN etching on a vehicle's windows can deter thieves because it is costly and timely to replace both manufactured etched parts and all of the vehicle windows.
- **★**VIN etchings help law enforcement officials to identify stolen vehicles.
- ★Some insurance companies consider VIN etching a deterrent and offer an insurance discount.



VIN ETCHING . HEAT . KHOU-TV NEWSCLIP . TRADEMARK

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

### H.E.A.T. Help End Auto Theft

- ★A voluntary statewide registration program designed as a theft deterrent and recovery aid.
- ★Vehicle owners sign an agreement with the participating law enforcement agency that enables officers to stop that vehicle anywhere in Texas between 1:00am and 5:00am to verify ownership. Additionally, the vehicle owner can permit officers to stop the vehicle if crossing from Texas into Mexico.
- ★H.E.A.T. registration is free and valid for 4 years.
- ★Owners may register on-line through the Texas DPS website, through 1-800-CAR-WATCH or at participating police and sheriff's departments.





VIN ETCHING . HEAT . KHOU-TV NEWSCLIP . TRADEMARK

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

### **Trademark**

In January 2010, ABTPA announced that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has awarded them the registered service marks for the "Watch Your Car" mark and design and for the "You Hold the Key" mark as of January 5, 2010. The "Watch Your Car" design consists of a silhouette in the shape of a car with the tires of the car being a cartoon image shaped like eyes.

The marks are used for promoting public awareness of the need for vehicle theft and vehicle burglary prevention, producing television public service announcements on the subject of vehicle theft and vehicle burglary prevention, and direct mail advertising on vehicle theft and vehicle burglary prevention.

Any entity currently using the "Watch Your Car" and/or "You Hold the Key" will need to contact the ABTPA of at 512.374.5101 to obtain official permission to use either service mark.

Watch Your Car

Did You Know?

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Accomplishments

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Public Awareness and Education

Looking Forward

Summary

VIN ETCHING . HEAT . KHOU-TV NEWSCLIP . TRADEMARK

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**



SENDING A SIGNAL

**EXPANDING OUR SIGNAL** 



#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

### **Expanding the Signal**

- ★ School driver education programs and defensive driving programs.
- **★** The Texas Motor Transportation Association.
- ★ Individuals who lease from car rental companies.
- ★ Drivers at highly trafficked areas even including ferry boats.



SENDING A SIGNAL

**EXPANDING OUR SIGNAL** 

#### **SUMMARY**

The Texas Auto & Burglary Theft Prevention Authority will continue to...

- ★ Be the "Authority" on the business of auto burglary and theft.
- $\star$  Develop and initiate innovative theft reduction strategies.
- ★ Coordinate with law enforcement and business and civic groups.
- ★ Disseminate information regarding auto burglary and theft trends and prevention techniques.



THE ABTPA COMMITMENT

#### **SUMMARY**

What you can do to help.

- $\star$  Partner with ABTPA to send the same message to the citizens of Texas.
- **★**Continue to support our mission.
- ★ Assist the ABTPA task forces with the prevention of stolen vehicles and auto burglary.
- **★**Open the communication lines for all parties of enforcement, education and training.

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THE ABTPA COMMITMENT